

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,739,991 to Matono et al.; and claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Matono et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The applied art does not teach, disclose or even suggest that one of the shield layers of the read head, the one of the magnetic layers of the right head, and the magnetism intercepting layer have substantially the same plane geometries by being formed using a single frame, as claimed in claim 1.

In contrast, Matono discloses a structure, best shown in Fig. 14, in which the nonmagnetic thin film 83 is interposed between the shield portion 81 and the core portion 82. However, as shown in Fig. 8 of Matono, at the medium facing surface, the shield portion 81 has a width greater than that of each of the nonmagnetic thin film 83 and the core portion 82. Therefore, the plane geometry of the shield portion 81 is different from that of each of the nonmagnetic film 83 and the core portion 82.

Thus, Matono fails to disclose or suggest the claimed feature that the one of the shield layers of the read head, the one of the magnetic layers of the write head, and the magnetism intercepting layer have substantially the same plane geometries by being formed using a single frame. For example, the specification at page 18, lines 12-14 discloses that the one of the shield layers (the top shield layer 8) of the read head, the one of the magnetic layers (the bottom pole layer 10) of the write head, and the magnetism intercepting layer 9 are formed using the single frame 54. It is self-evident that those layers formed using the single frame have substantially the same plane geometries.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Kevin M. McKinley
Registration No. 43,794

JAO:KMM/jfb

Date: September 22, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
